

CITY OF BURNET

# Legislative Priorities

**City Council Regular Meeting**  
January 14, 2025

Discuss and consider action: Resolution No. R2025-01: K.  
McBurnett

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURNET,  
TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM AND PRIORITIES  
FOR THE 89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN TEXAS



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## Legislative Priorities

- The 89th Legislative Session of the Texas Legislature will convene on January 14, 2025.
- By establishing legislative priorities, the City of Burnet can focus its communication and advocacy efforts with area legislators.
- Adopted priorities do not, in any way, limit the City's ability to advocate during the legislative session regarding specific issues or bills.



## City of Burnet Council SUPPORTS

- **Population Brackets:**
  - Inclusion of population brackets for every bill considered by the Legislature.
- **Local Control:**
  - Upholds the principle of local government.
  - Reinforces the statutory authority of Burnet's elected leaders to address local priorities and challenges.
- **Protection of Municipal Rights of Way:**
  - Protects the city's authority to manage public rights-of-way.
  - Requires compensation for the use of public rights-of-way for broadband and fiber optic services.



## City of Burnet Council SUPPORTS

- **Revocation of HB 2439:**
  - Revoking House Bill 2439, which prevents cities from mandating a certain percentage of masonry (brick, stone, stucco, etc.) on the exterior of homes or other buildings unless explicitly allowed by state or federal law.(This legislation was passed during the 86th legislative session.)
- **Revocation of HB 2127 and SB 2038:**
  - Revoking House Bill 2127, which limits a city's ability to adopt and enforce ordinances in certain State Codes.
  - Revoking Senate Bill 2038, which permits petitions for release from a city's ETJ.(Both bills were passed during the 88th legislative session.)



## City of Burnet Council SUPPORTS

- **Growth and Development Control:**
  - Provides additional tools for managing growth and development.
  - Includes alternative moratorium triggers due to resource limitations, drought, permitting, and more.
- **Water Conservation:**
  - Offers tools for water management, such as stormwater harvesting, water sourcing, automatic meter reading, and drought-use regulation.
  - Creates funding for native planting incentives and smart water use programs.
  - Encourages partnerships with Texas A&M University for statewide native planting initiatives.



# City of Burnet Council SUPPORTS

- **Signs:**

- Affirms State and City authority over off-premise and other commercial signs.
- Promotes Scenic Highways in the Hill Country.
- Allows regulation of political signage.

- **Lighting:**

- Expands the City's authority to regulate lighting and enforce Dark Sky requirements.



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# City of Burnet Council SUPPORTS

- **Transportation:**

- Facilitates collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation for projects within the city limits and ETJ.
- Provides additional tools for transportation funding.

- **Property Tax:**

- Increases transparency in property tax and budget adoption by coordinating state, county, and city timelines.
- Improves the accuracy of property appraisals.



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## City of Burnet Council SUPPORTS

- **Competitive Bidding and Proposals:**
  - Increase the competitive bidding threshold to a minimum of \$125,000.
- **Payment Bonds:**
  - Increase the performance bond and payment bond requirements to a minimum of \$125,000.





## City of Burnet Council **OPPOSES**

- Preemption of Local Control:
  - Erodes local control.
  - Weakens the ability of locally elected leaders to address challenges or opportunities unique to Burnet or the Texas Hill Country region.
- Local Support and Advocacy:
  - Remove the ability of the Texas Municipal League or any similar organization to advocate on behalf of local governments in Texas.



## City of Burnet Council **OPPOSES**

- ETJ Regulation:

- Erodes the city's ability to regulate its ETJ, including boundary changes, annexations, and disannexations.
- (Supports the revocation of Senate Bill 2038 passed during the 88th legislative session.)

- Property Tax:

- Eliminates any source of municipal revenue, particularly property taxes, without thorough impact studies or alternative funding mechanisms.
- Expands appraisal caps or imposes revenue caps on property taxes without adequate evaluation or alternatives.



## City of Burnet Council **OPPOSES**

- Trees:
  - Restricts the ability of municipalities to preserve scenic landscapes and protect trees.
- Stormwater Controls and Watersheds:
  - Limits municipal authority to regulate water quality, prevent pollution, and manage aspects of development like impervious cover, lot sizes, and drainage infrastructure.



## City of Burnet Council **OPPOSES**

- Signs:
  - Reduces municipal authority to regulate signs.
  - Preempts municipal sign regulations within city limits or ETJ.
- Land Use/Zoning:
  - Reduces municipal authority to regulate land use, including short-term rentals.
  - Limits the City's ability to adequately review site plans and plats.
  - Preempts local regulation of activities affecting density, zoning, permitting, and inspections.



## City of Burnet Council **OPPOSES**

- Municipal Courts:
  - Curtails the authority of municipal courts to enforce their judgments.
- Elections:
  - Requires partisan elections for municipal officers.
  - Limits the conduct of municipal elections.



## Legislative Priorities Next Steps

Once approved-

- A copy of the Resolution will be sent to Representative Troxclair and Senator Flores
- A copy of the Resolution will be provided to the Texas Municipal League
- The Resolution will be used to support advocacy efforts



# Questions?

## Recommendation

- Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. R2025-01 as presented.



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